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TheHighlander

Thursday Oct 23 2025 | Issue 712

INSIDE: INVASIVE SPECIES BIGGEST THREAT PAGE 6 FREE

Tanya McCready DeBruin and Hank DeBruin at Winterdance Dogsled Tours. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Haliburton's Frankenstein connection

By Lisa Gervais

Hank DeBruin and Tanya McCready DeBruin got a call from California in the fall of 2023; from Birds and Animals Unlimited looking for some sled dogs for a movie.

The owners of Winterdance Dogsled Tours in Haliburton then hosted Hollywood visitor, Thomas Gunderson, who took photos and measurements of their purebred Siberian Huskies.

He never mentioned what the movie was or who was directing it. Hank figures they found out about Winterdance as he had competed in the Iditarod and Yukon Quest dogsled races.

Tanya said, "he was looking for a very specific type of sled dog and that's all he (the animal trainer) knew."

They didn't hear anything after that, except for an occasional request for more information about the dogs.

But on Christmas Eve 2023, Tanya said the Hollywood handler called to say 'okay, I think this is going to happen' and they had a phone call Dec. 26.

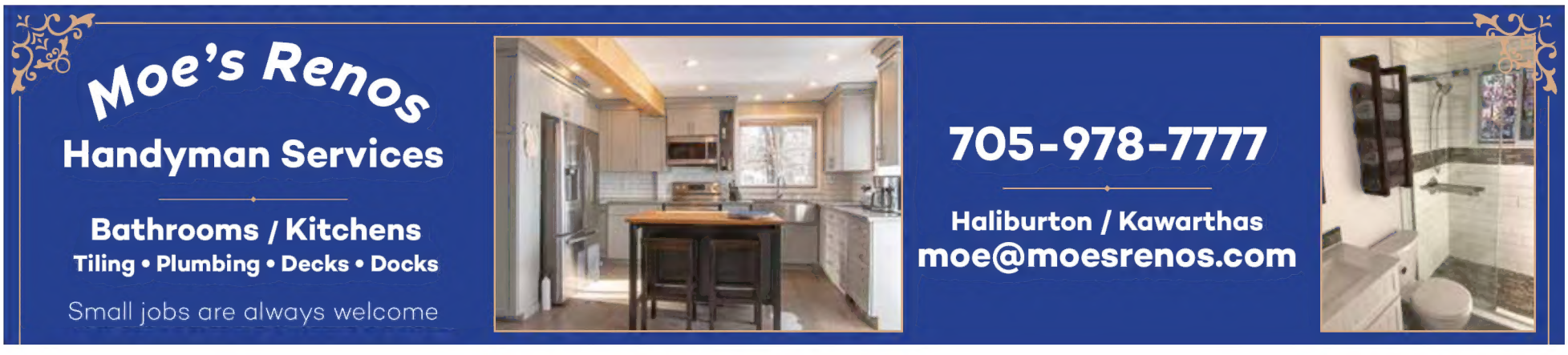
In January 2024, they were told the director was Guillermo del Toro and the movie was *Frankenstein* – which was released Oct. 17 in theatres. Not only would they need dogs on set, but Hank as a stunt double.

Based on the iconic 1818 book by Mary Shelley, the film revolves around a brilliant but egotistical scientist who brings a monstrous creature to life in a daring experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation.

In *Frankenstein*, dog sleds appear in the novel's Arctic setting where Captain Robert Walton's ship is trapped in ice. First, Walton's crew spots a gigantic figure on a dog sled. Shortly after, they rescue a man named Victor Frankenstein, who is barely alive on another dog sled and was chasing the monstrous figure. The story that follows is Frankenstein's account of his life and his pursuit of the creature.

Tanya said the film studio flew up Gunderson, who worked with them in Haliburton for almost two weeks. For example, they had to train the dogs to be comfortable being near a fire. They brought their dogs to four different sets in Ontario, including a frozen lake near North Bay for the Arctic scenes, and a studio in downtown

Continued **'Movie'** on page 2



Highlander news

Movie to open film festival at Highlands Cinemas

Continued from page 1

Toronto. They were on set for about three weeks over a four-to-five-month period. Their part was over in June 2024, with the cast and crew moving on to Europe.

Tanya said it was an incredible experience. "The passion that went into it … the people on the set poured their heart and soul into this movie."

Hank added it was "an amazing group of people. They became like family. There were no airs to anybody, from the director all the way down; we joked and had fun but it was hard work and serious."

Hank found del Toro to be "an extremely down-to-earth individual. He knows exactly what he wants. We would sit there for hours and all of a sudden, he'd say 'we're shooting now'."

Hank was never nervous, Tanya said, because he trusts his dogs.

An unassuming Hank said it is a "real honour. I can't wait to see the movie. I'm very excited."

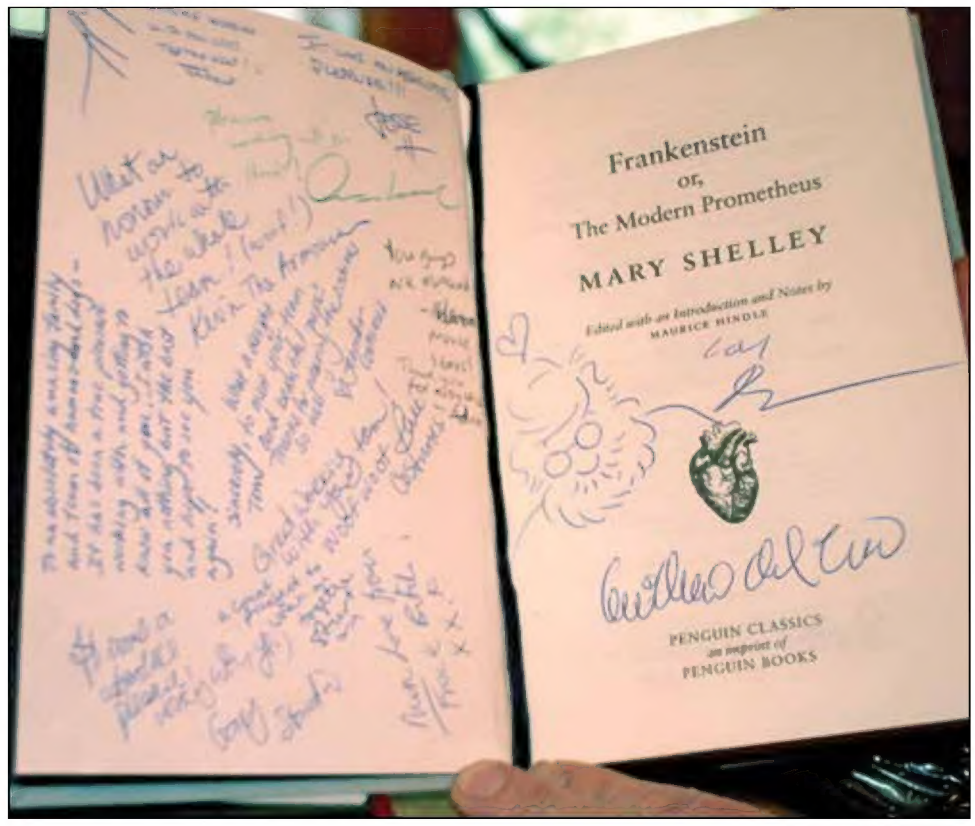
Tanya said they had to sign a non-disclosure agreement and could not talk about their involvement in the movie until Oct. 17, so it was a big secret to keep. "It was hard. When you see your dogs do that, and know they are going to be in a film and Hank being the stunt double, you want to share that, but that's part of the industry. You can't give that away."

Frankenstein at HIFF

The Haliburton International Film Festival will be screening *Frankenstein* at Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount Nov. 7. Hank and Tanya will be there.

"That's where we're meant to see it. There's no more iconic theatre than Highlands Cinemas. Our family has loved it since we moved here 25 years ago; so, to see it in Keith's theatre … it will be worth the wait," Tanya said.

Festival co-organizer Tammy Rea added, "where else would you want to see the Haliburton premiere of *Frankenstein* that has a Haliburton connection?" Tickets can be pre-purchased at thoseothermovies.com



Right: A copy of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, signed by the cast and crew. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

COUNTY NEWS

Minden Hills forest fire listed as 'under control'

Minden Hills fire chief Don Kruger said a forest fire between Bob and Beer lakes in his township is now listed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) as under control.

He was referencing the MNRF forest fire information map as of Oct. 21. He said the size was listed at 13.4 hectares. He said the last update he had from the MNRF was when they called him on Oct. 17. At that time, they had two crews and a helicopter working the fire, at which point it was not under control. He said they were planning to bolster their ground crew, and were hopeful of the rain that has now fallen. He was unsure whether they were using water bombers.

The County of Haliburton first issued news of the fire on its Facebook page Oct. 17.

"With the rain we've had over the last couple of days, it's probably pretty close to being out. But usually even once it's out, they'll take a day or so before they declare it out because they'll wait to see if there are any hotspots."

Kruger said it was Crown Land and no structures were under threat. He got an initial call about the fire on Oct. 15 but said his department was not required. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Postal workers move to rotating strikes

Mail delivery resumed in Haliburton County last week after the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) called off its nationwide strike in favour of rotating actions.

About 55,000 Canada Post employees have been without a contract for more than 18 months, with collective agreements for rural carriers expiring Dec. 31, 2023, and deals for urban workers up Jan. 31, 2024.

The union called a national strike Sept. 25, in protest of proposed government reforms to Canada Post. The strike was suspended Oct. 10. It was the second stand-off between the two sides following a four-week strike from Nov. 15 to Dec. 17 last year.

After switching to rotating strikes, CUPW said it will not be announcing locations, dates, times nor durations in advance.

"No matter the strike action, our goal remains the same: negotiated, ratifiable collective agreements that strengthen public services, protect good jobs, and build a sustainable post office that will serve Canadians, no matter where they are located, for generations to come," the union said.

Since 2018, Canada Post has accumulated over $3.8 billion in losses before tax. It posted a $1.3 billion loss in 2024.

The Crown corporation said it was happy to see service resume, but warned the public there will be delays.

"As we continue to operate with an unstable network, it will take time to clear the trapped volume and manage operational resources, so customers should expect delays in processing and delivery," a Canada Post statement reads.

Post offices started taking new packages delivery on Oct. 15. *(Mike Baker)*

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The ‘reaching out and raising up’ panel at the Oct. 16 housing summit. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Summit hears about need for shelters

By Lisa Gervais

While social service agencies provide outreach from offices in Haliburton County, dedicated spaces to help people facing complex challenges, such as poverty, homelessness, and addiction, are missing, the 2025 Haliburton County Housing Summit heard last week.

Christina Alden of the John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton was one of the speakers in a ‘reaching out and raising up’ panel. Alden works in the Minden office.

“I hand out sleeping bags, tents, clothing; anything else (clients) may need that we have available at the time. I offer a place to heat up the (SIRCH) meals we give out, charge their phones or tablet, and use WiFi, distribute harm reduction supplies, naloxone kits and training.”

Alden also does outreach, including to housing units. She said when people get used to workers coming on a regular basis, they are more likely to open up and ask for help.

Alden said people are living in tents and couch surfing. They may need help getting ID, which is crucial to accessing health care or housing to provide stability. A lot of this work is done at the Minden courthouse.

“Even with all this work, and all of the different services providing outreach … one of the biggest needs we see is for a dedicated space in each community; a place where someone can not only access our services, but also have a meal, take a shower, and do their laundry. These are basic needs that restore dignity, build trust, and make it possible for people to take the next step forward, like employment, so they can afford food, clothing and proper shelter.” Alden said.

She noted the John Howard Society is working on that in Lindsay now, “so it would be awesome if we could have that in Haliburton County, too.”

Donna Matthews is with the Eagle Lake Church ladies, who provide food to people on Highland Street in downtown Haliburton.

“Last winter was so cold; we worked outside of my car with no warming area or no washroom facilities. With the cold, there’s little or no time for them to chat and sometimes they won’t even come up because they’re just so cold. They go in for what they need, and away they go. So that is not working,” Matthews said.

She added they looked into renting a space with a small kitchen, washroom and warming area but the cost was “way above our means to support.

“Haliburton is high needs, but low resources. We could be more effective if we had a physical space where we could go in, they could be warm for an hour, use the washroom, wash your face, brush your teeth, sit and have a conversation. They need to have a space that is warm, welcoming, friendly and safe to come to.”

David Barkley, of Coming Full Circle (CMHA HKPR), said his peer support outreach encourages people to attend drop-ins. “It’s important to have a safe space for people to come in and feel like it’s okay to do that and to connect.”

During her talk, Sue Tiffin, director of community outreach for the County of Haliburton, noted how the Highlands does not have a shelter for men or a shelter for homeless in general. The closest is in Lindsay.

Others speakers included: Brenda Manser with Housing First, Haliburton Highlands Health Services; Chris Parish, commander of the Haliburton County Community Paramedics; and Joel Imbeau of the Haliburton Highlands OPP mobile crisis response team.

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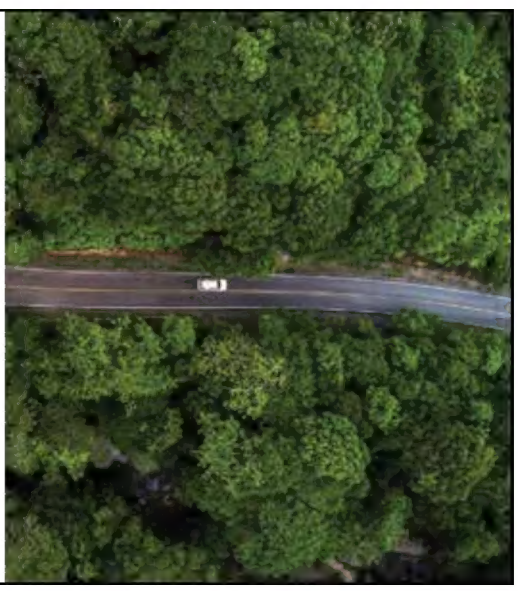

Highlander news

Support staff return to work at college

By Mike Baker

Fleming College administration has welcomed more than a dozen full-time support staff back to their roles at the Haliburton School of Art + Design after a month-long standoff between the College Employer Council (CEC) and the union OPSEU/SEFPO ended Oct. 16.

News broke last week that the two sides had reached an agreement that would send 10,000 striking employees back to work. No terms have been revealed, but the agreement that ended a five-week strike at Ontario's 24 public colleges, which began Sept. 11, is subject to the union members' ratification by Nov. 4.

Chris Jardine, associate vice-president of marketing and advancement at Fleming, said the college was glad to have workers back on campus.

"Yes, a tentative agreement for full-time support staff has been reached, and picketing has ended," Jardine said. "We're pleased to have full-time support staff back at work and college operations returning to normal."

About 15 workers had been picketing for weeks off the HSAD property on College Drive, after their contracts expired Aug. 31. Of Fleming's 250 full-time support staff, 79.8 per cent were in favour of striking, said OPSEU Local 351 president Marcia Steeves. She did not elaborate on the terms of the deal.

Christine Kelsey, chair of the union's bargaining team, celebrated the deal in an Oct. 15 statement.

"After months of intensive negotiations with an incredibly difficult employer, the gains made in this agreement would not have been possible without members holding strong these last weeks," Kelsey said. "We had no choice but to fight back amidst a plan to privatize public education, as well as 10,000 job losses and over 650 program cuts across the system.

Fleming have been lost and more than 20 programs cut. In July, 29 Fleming workers were informed their positions were being terminated effective Oct. 9, including at least one from HSAD.

Since 2020, HSAD has lost four full-time support staffers, dropping from seven academic support roles to three.

Full-time support staff from the HSAD returned to work Oct. 16. *File.*

Part-timers vote to strike

The Ontario Labour Relations Board confirmed that only 30 per cent of approximately 13,000 unionized part-time college support staffers participated in a four-day strike vote Oct. 14-17, with 64 per cent in favour of striking.

Part-timers have been without a contract since Jan. 31, 2024, with negotiations over a new collective agreement for the past 18 months proving unsuccessful. OPSEU/SEFPO and the CEC have agreed to three mediation dates – Nov. 20, Dec. 12 and Jan. 28, 2026 – with a proposed strike in February if a new deal isn't agreed.

"Our proposals aren't unreasonable, they are what we deserve," the union said in an Oct. 17 statement.

The CEC's Graham Lloyd said all unionized employees have been offered a two per cent annual wage increase; a six per cent jump in vacation pay; two paid sick days per year; no loss of pay for permanent employees whose shifts are cancelled within 24 hours; stronger protections in cases of workplace sexual harassment; and an internal applicant status for part-timers applying for full-time roles.

The union is calling for a six per cent annual wage increase, eight per cent in vacation pay, five paid sick days per year, and unlimited paid time off for religious and cultural reasons.

"A strike amongst our valued part-time staff is not necessary to achieve a fair agreement," Lloyd said. "The part-time support staff are important to the colleges and have worked hard, especially during the last five weeks, to support colleges operations."

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Councillor fired up about hall closures

By Lisa Gervais

Coun. Angela Lewis is worried about fire hall closures in Highlands East. *File.*

The prospect of Highlands East closing fire halls is already proving contentious, with Coun. Angela Lewis grilling fire chief Chris Baughman during a Highlands East council meeting Oct. 14.

Baughman tabled a report asking council whether they would like to stick to their vehicle replacement schedule, or come up with another approach in line with recommendations in the fire master plan.

Consultant, The Loomex Group, told council Aug. 12 they should close station 6 in Paudash and station 2 in Highland Grove as part of a consolidation plan.

Baughman noted the existing plan called for five vehicle replacements for 2025: a fire chief vehicle ($70,000), station 2 rescue pick-up ($70,000), station three rescue pick-up ($140,000), station one pumper ($600,000) and station 3 ATV/side-by-side ($25,000). He said they still need to buy the Station 3 rescue pick-up, station 1 pumper and station 3 ATV/side-by-side.

In a written report, he said, "alternatively, if council wishes to put these vehicle replacements on hold, the recommendations from the master fire plan could be further investigated." He said he would then bring a detailed report to a future meeting of council.

He added he could report back on the reassignment of existing apparatus to different stations, eliminating the need to replace two vehicles for this budget year and in future, to save $740,000 in the current budget year.

He acknowledged, "reassignment rather than replacement purchases would result in a station operating without specific apparatus… (which) could present an opportunity to revisit the fire master plan recommendations regarding long-term service delivery planning."

Prior to being elected in 2022, Lewis served on Highlands East's fire committee, where she advocated against the closure of the Highland Grove fire hall.

She said the fire master plan spoke to "transparency, trust and communication," especially when talking changes to service.

She said if they alter how they replace equipment, "there will be a fire station that is left with not enough apparatus to give the essential services that it has to a community."

Baughman said his ask last week was "not leaving any stations short of any equipment at this time."

Lewis asked about timeframes, and which stations would be impacted. Baughman said it would mean moving station 6's rescue vehicle to station 3, eliminating the purchase of a rescue at station 3, and leaving station 6 short of an apparatus.

Lewis responded, "so what type of public consultation are we going to have?" She asked if they could defer the report to give the public a chance to speak.

Baughman repeated, "there's been no recommendation to close stations, move apparatus or anything at this point. We've had a third-party provider give us a report with their recommendations. None of the recommendations have come from myself or council." He said it was up to council to provide direction.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall asked about timelines for getting new vehicles. Baughman said the average wait time is 18 months to three years, and he anticipates two years. Ryall thought it was important to make a decision by first quarter 2026.

Lewis suggested sticking with the current vehicle replacement plan and councillors agreed.

CAO Brittany McCaw said that was the intent of the report, but it gave council the opportunity to look into the fire master plan's recommendations.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada* will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until Saturday, November 15.

• Belinda Wilson will present *In the Footsteps of Heroes: Canadian WW2 Battlefields, Memorials & Cemeteries* on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 pm. This event is presented by the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group in collaboration with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

• *When Daylight Comes: The Canadians on D-Day*, a traveling exhibit from Honouring Bravery, will be on display from Tuesday, October 21 to Friday, October 24 from 10 am to 4 pm.

• On Friday, October 24, we invite families to join in our PA Day activities. Seasonal crafts, exhibits, and interactive experiences will be offered at Nature's Place from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. In the afternoon, enjoy a free movie screening of Disney's *Dinosaur* (2000) in the Welch Room from 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week is coming! November 1-7 Minden Hills Fire Department is teaming up with the Office of the Fire Marshall to help you think about carbon monoxide safety and take the steps to keep safe.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

• Parks, Trails and Boat Launches will not be maintained starting Friday October 24.

• Join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena for fitness classes running in November and December. Classes include senior balance; buff, balance, burn; and warrior/warrior lite. Classes begin the first week of November and run for 6 weeks.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• October 30 – Regular Council Meeting

• November 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

TRASH OR TREAT IS BACK AT THE SCOTCH LINE LANDFILL

We're excited to host our annual Trash or Treat Halloween event on October 31. Be sure to stop by in your costume for some Halloween fun and check out our fang-tastic decorations! Staff will be handing out spooky smiles, treats, and colouring pages. There is fun for the whole family.

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HAUNTING IN MINDEN HILLS

Join us for the 3rd annual Haunting in Minden Hills on Saturday, October 25 from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. This year's Halloween celebration comes with an enchanted twist inspired by fairy tales, enchanted forests, and magical worlds. Featuring a food sale hosted by the Minden & District Lions Club. Costumes are encouraged! See separate ad for details on the fantastic activities we have planned.

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Haliburton Forest's Malcolm Cockwell said invasive species pose a big threat to his business. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Invasive pests pose biggest threat to County forests

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve managing director Malcolm Cockwell told a roomful of County leaders Oct. 2 that invasive species pose more of a threat to his operations – and the wider Highlands environment – than climate change.

Speaking at Haliburton County Development Corporation's (HCDC) annual general meeting earlier this month, Cockwell was asked about the major obstacles facing his business, which employs about 100 County residents full-time.

While he name-dropped forest fires, tariffs and climate change as the perceived three-headed dog, Cockwell said none have been a major concern.

"Wildfires have not affected our forestry operations much at all… there were a few small fires in the region, but the forests around here, fundamentally, have not evolved to burn. The natural catastrophic fire interval (referring to the average time between major fires impacting ecosystems) in this region is one every 1,000 years," Cockwell said.

He believes the heat Haliburton Forest and other local tourist operators feel from fires is entirely preventable.

"People read articles on CBC or wherever, which suggests Haliburton County is a chartered hellscape due to forest fires, but we don't feel or see that whatsoever, certainly not in our forest management business," Cockwell said. "It's the tourism side that gets hit, people not wanting to come here because of the things they're reading, when maybe those things aren't always accurate."'

After U.S. president Donald Trump imposed an additional 10 per cent tariff on imported Canadian timber and lumber this month, taking the total tariff to 45 per cent, Cockwell said Haliburton Forest has found a workaround, expanding its clientele to more markets in Europe and Asia.

Pre-tariffs, Cockwell estimates between 30 and 50 per cent of Haliburton Forest's products, predominantly raw lumber, was shipped to the U.S.

"Basically, every board foot that we had going across the border to the U.S. still has a home, only now it's going overseas," Cockwell said. "We're still selling the same amount of lumber… the silver lining we're focusing on is that when this all settles down, we would love if we could redirect our material back to the U.S. and really ramp up [the business]."

Above all else, Cockwell said it's the non-native creepy crawlies that have taken refuge at Haliburton Forest in recent years that keep him up at night.

Beech bark disease has been described as the "biggest, most significant problem" Haliburton Forest has faced in recent years. It was first identified in 2010, with the disease spread through fungus that lives inside insects that feed off a beech tree's sap. There's no cure, with Forest scientists estimating the species will be wiped out completely by 2033.

About 15 per cent of all trees on the forest's private property are beech trees. Ash trees are also vulnerable, due to the presence of the emerald ash borer.

Cockwell said Haliburton Forest has also started to help remove invasive species from other parts of the region. He says people can send pictures of anything "that seems funny, or out of the ordinary" to info@haliburtonforest.com and his team will either identify it themselves or send it to research partners at the University of Toronto to examine.

Over the summer, a cottager sent in a sample of what ended up being giant hogweed on Kennisis Lake Road. The perennial can grow up to 14-feet and crowds out other native plants. Cockwell said staff visited the site and removed hogweed; follow-ups have shown the plant hasn't returned.

"I'm really tired of hearing about climate change… if you were to ask me to show you where climate change is happening in our forest, I wouldn't be able to do it," Cockwell said. "The thing we really need to be talking about is these invasive pests. For a business like ours, invasive pests are 10 times more present and clearer as a danger than climate change."

Highlander news

It's fall colour season in Algonquin Highlands. *File.*

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Roads closed for fall colours

Council has decided to keep six roads in the Oxtongue Lake area closed through to the end of the fall colour viewing season.

Since 2018, Algonquin Highlands has temporarily closed Oxtongue Lake Road, Blue Spruce Road, Algonquin Outfitters Road, Tom Parris Road, Elliott Road and Harris Road to limit the number of visiting vehicles idling to check out the fall colours, or parking for access to nearby Algonquin Park.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux, who resides in the area, said things have changed a lot over the past 10 years. When the municipality enacted this bylaw, she said the highway was backed up 10-12 kilometres with cars waiting to get into Algonquin Park. Since the site changed to timed/limited entry through the pandemic, Dailloux said the situation has remedied itself.

As well as closing the roads, the township has been sending bylaw officers to inspect. Last year, Greg Moore, the township's chief building and bylaw official, said staff issued one ticket and 10-12 verbal warnings. He said the cost was about $2,000 for three days of patrolling.

Council opted not to send bylaw officers north this year, with Dailloux saying she plans to attend the next Oxtongue Lake Association AGM to see if they feel the roads still require closing in 2026.

"The problem that started this conversation is clearly in the past now," Dailloux said.

Clear the way

Public works manager, Adam Thorn had a rare piece of good financial news for council, saying the proposal to remove trees from approximately 12-14 acres of land around Stanhope Municipal Airport came in significantly under budget.

The township earmarked $630,000 for the work in June, but Thorn said the winning bid from Diamond Tree Care was for $152,000. Fourteen companies visited the site, with six submitting bids, with Diamond being the lowest bidder.

A 2024 airspace survey of the area found four spots where tree growth posed potential safety concerns for planes taking off from and landing at the airport. If the township did nothing, Thorn said the Airport Management Council of Ontario could reduce the length of the Stanhope runway.

"I'm getting really positive reports from pilots that this will improve safety immensely," Mayor Liz Danielsen said.

Book your spot

Deputy clerk Sarah Hutson said the township has gotten approval from the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) to sell plots in the green burial section at St. Stephen's Cemetery in advance.

A requirement under the Funeral Burial Cremation Services Act stated an exact location has to be identified on an internment rights certificate, required at the time of burial, but since green burial plots are unmarked and the section filled as-and-when there's demand, township staff felt it wasn't previously able to sell spots before they were needed.

Hutson said the BAO required two minor technical changes to the bylaw, but that now anyone wanting to be buried in the green burial section can secure their spot.

She said the township has also received the memorial stone that will be installed at the site. The rock was sourced from North Shore Road and donated to the township by Francis Thomas Contracting, with Haliburton Rock Quarry donating the labour to process the stone. Hutson said plaques honouring their contribution will be installed on the gazebo. *(Algonquin Highlands briefs compiled by Mike Baker)*

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Let's go Blue Jays

By Lisa Gervais

Like many of you, I am old enough to remember the Toronto Blue Jays winning their first World Series in 1992.

The Jays played the Atlanta Braves and on Oct. 24 clinched the series four games to two with a 4-2 win. It was the first time the championship trophy came north of the Canada-U.S. border.

Despite that iconic moment in Canadian sport, many of us remember the 1993 World Series win even more.

If you'll recall, the Jays played the Philadelphia Phillies. For some reason I cannot remember, I watched game six in Orillia with my sister and brother-in-law.

As most of us know, with Toronto ahead three games to two in the series, but trailing game six by a score of 6–5 in the bottom of the ninth inning, Joe Carter hit a game-winning three-run home run to clinch Toronto's second consecutive championship (the first team to repeat as champions since the 1977–78 Yankees).

On Monday night, George Springer's dinger in the bottom of the seventh – a three-run shot to give the Jays a 4-3 lead - and the series - was a lot like that Carter shot of 32 years ago.

Did I just say that? Yes, 32 years since Toronto has raised the World Series trophy.

Now, full disclosure. I don't think I watched an entire Blue Jays game in the regular season. I have, indeed, climbed on the bandwagon. I acquainted myself with this team as I watched them dominate the New York Yankees in the American League Division Series Oct. 4-8.

I was hooked and put everything else aside to watch the American League Championship Series against the Seattle Mariners. I judged their use of a trident for home runs, versus the Jays jacket.

Sure, the Jays have big stars, like series MVP Vladimir Guerrero Jr., but they have many, many foot soldiers. They may not be the most talented team, but they find ways to win. They are indeed the comeback kids. And, they appear to be as tight of a squad as I have ever seen in Major League Baseball, or any sport for that matter. Can they beat the mighty Los Angeles Dodgers? Maybe.

What is really interesting about this team is that it is a Canadian team. From coast to coast to coast, we are getting behind the little engine that could. At a time when our relationship with the U.S. is fractured, to say the least, this team is a Canadian symbol. It's more than just about baseball.

Even here in little old Haliburton County, we've caught the fever. As I am out and about in the community, I always listen for snippets of conversation to hear what people are talking about. It's not last week's housing summit, Highlands Opera Studio, or the Huskies.

It's the Blue Jays. And why not? In a world fraught with heaviness, why not tune out for a few hours and watch a baseball game? Why not get lost in a little bit of sport? I know I will be as the Jays take the field starting Friday night in their David versus Goliath clash against the Dodgers.

Who's with me?

LETTERS

Recognizing volunteers

Dear editor,

The Minden Community Food Centre recently held a celebration at the Dominion Hotel to honour two of its long-serving volunteers, Joan and Gary Stoner, for their years of commitment, leadership, and service.

Joan first joined the food centre as part of the kitchen crew when meals were being prepared at the Minden Community Food Centre. In 2014, when the organization moved to its current location on Newcastle Street, Joan established the clothing and goods boutique, a department that became an important part of the centre's operations. Her friendly presence, compassion, and willingness to help every visitor made her a beloved part of the MCFC family.

Gary began volunteering with the food bank in 2010 when it was still located on Bobcaygeon Road. Over the years, he played a vital role in countless behind-the-scenes tasks, helping unload deliveries, stocking shelves, and delivering hampers to those unable to visit in-person. His calm reliability became a steady force at MCFC, especially during challenging times, like the 2017 Minden flood, when he helped the kitchen crew prepare and serve meals to those affected.

Gary joined the board in 2018, later serving as chair. Under his leadership, the MCFC developed its first strategic plan, began pursuing accreditation through Food Banks Canada's Standards of Excellence program, and launched the community garden at the Minden Fairgrounds, offering local residents garden plots to grow their own food and contribute surplus produce to the food centre.

Joan and Gary have left a lasting legacy of service, compassion, and community spirit. Their dedication helped shape the food centre into what it is today, a welcoming place where neighbours help neighbours.

As they move on to the next chapter of their lives, the MCFC family extends heartfelt thanks for all they have done to strengthen the organization and the community it serves.

Tracey Gilbert
Minden

Thanks, Dr. Bottum

Dear editor,

Thank you for 'It's been a fun ride', *The Highlander,* Oct. 16.

Norm Bottum has been the family doctor for many of us for about 37 years and will be missed. Norm and Janet were a big part of the community as well, active at the curling club etc.

Norm was dedicated to his practice and kind enough to visit patients in Extendicare and at home if they were not able to attend the office.

My family and I thank him for his kindness and attention over the years. We wish him many years of more rest and time to enjoy his grandchildren.

Thank you, Norm for being our family doctor.

Joan Cameron and family
Haliburton

A thanks giving for healthcare

Dear editor,

Our family is so grateful for the local healthcare system we have here in Haliburton County after a scary experience with pneumonia for our two-year-old.

We received nothing short of amazing care, coordination, and support from the doctors and nurses at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (Dr. Devon Tillbrook, RN Derek, RN Carol, and RN Morgan) and paramedics from the Haliburton County Paramedic Service (Courtney and Adam), as well as the whole pediatric team in Peterborough.

We hug our kiddo extra tight these days and spent our Thanksgiving weekend reflecting on how lucky we are for so many reasons.

Lauren Hunter
Ingoldsby

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Junior highlanders

Left: Red Hawk runners at Kawartha Cross Country at Jackson Park. Right: Senior girls Ella Gervais and Grace Allder work together to help the team to a 3rd place finish. *Submitted.*

Runners in the thick of competition

By Lisa Gervais

Red Hawk runners competed at the Kawartha Cross Country Championships Oct. 15 at Jackson Park in Peterborough.

Coach Karen Gervais said runners faced a variety of terrain, including grass, pea gravel, concrete and rocky and rooted uphill climbs.

Novice girl Quinn Hamilton continued to assert herself as a competitive force, cruising to a fifth-place finish on the four-kilometre course in a time of 17:50. Teammate Leah Allder, who continues to improve her time every race, finished 14th.

Novice boy Alex Lee echoed Hamilton's performance with a fifth-place finish in a time of 15:38. Teammates Duncan Evans-Fockler and Jaymon Bateman were 21st and 23rd respectively, with Bateman dropping another 30 seconds off his pace time for his best race of the season.

Junior girl Annika Gervais also ran a personal best pace time on the 5 km course for a fourth-place finish in a time of 20:58. Junior boy Aren Addison also continued to shave off time, finishing in 20th followed by teammate Tristan Humphries in 26th.

The senior girls team fought hard on the 6 km course, with Erika Hoare leading the team, finishing eighth in 27:48, closely followed by Violet Humphries in ninth. Ella Gervais and Grace Allder continued to work strongly together throughout the race to finish 16th and 17th. Olivia Gruppe supported, finishing 24th, and Lexi Dacey followed up in 30th in a field of 52 runners. The girls finished third as a team behind Adam Scott and the strong IE Weldon squad that placed fifth at OFSAA last year.

Athletes competed at COSSA Oct. 22 at Dunnett Orchards in Brighton, vying for COSSA medals and OFSAA berths.

Results were not available as of press time.

Holy Cross outscores Red Hawks

Peterborough's Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School travelled to Haliburton Oct. 15 for a clash with the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks in Kawartha Junior Boys Soccer action. The visitors left with a 7-2 win. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Left: Red Hawk Alex Lee gets the ball under control during first half action. Right: Liam Frith battles a Holy Cross player while Ayden Browes looks on. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – HIGHLANDS CINEMA IN KINMOUNT

2:00PM **7:00PM**

Frankenstein | 149 min | Mexico/USA
drama/fantasy/horror/sci-fi

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: Kevin Hebib, Charles Taylor, Hank DeBruin and Tanya McCready

Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro adapts Mary Shelley's classic tale of Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but egotistical scientist who brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation. This multi-layered and beautifully filmed story will be screened at the iconic Highlands Cinema in Kinmount! We are excited to welcome Haliburton's own Hank DeBruin and Tanya McCready of Winterdance Dogsled Tours and other guests to talk about their roles in the movie.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION

10:00AM

Little Lorraine | 115 min | Canada
crime/drama

After a mine disaster leads to the mine's permanent closure in Little Lorraine, a small North Atlantic seaside town with a population of 60, many families find themselves without any income. The movie Little Lorraine is based on true events and is a cautionary Canadian story showing what can happen when faced with few choices.

1:00PM

Once Upon My Mother | 102 min | France/Canada
drama | subtitles

When her baby is born with a clubfoot in 1963, Esther promises her son that, not only will he be able to walk, he will have a wonderful life. The story of a mother's unwavering love and devotion for her child as she overcomes physical challenges and social barriers. Her powerful promise drives their remarkable journey through life's ups and downs.

3:30PM

DJ Ahmet | 97 min | North Macedonia/
Czech Republic/Serbia/Croatia
comedy/drama | subtitles

Ahmet, a 15-year old boy from a remote Yuruk village in northern Macedonia and his mute brother find solace in music while navigating grief over their mother and a controlling father. Music helps him deal with parental expectations, societal conservatism, and forbidden love for a promised girl. This film was an audience favourite at the Cinéfest film festival in Sudbury.

7:30PM

Youngblood | 105 min | Canada
drama/romance/sport -- SPECIAL GUESTS TBC

Dean Youngblood, a hockey prodigy who joins the Hamilton Bulldogs, has to deal with toxic behavior during his journey to the National Hockey League draft. This intelligent and thoughtful take on masculinity and race is a remake with a different approach from the 1986 film of the same name. Dedicated to original director, Charles Officer. High drama, intense, character focused, not just about hockey but about choices, relationships, power dynamics, systemic issues, and character growth.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION

10:00AM

There's Still Tomorrow | 118 min | Italy
drama/history | subtitles

In this moving drama set in postwar Rome, a working-class woman dreams of a better future for herself and her daughter while facing abuse at the hands of her domineering husband. When a mysterious letter arrives, she discovers the courage to change the circumstances of her life. An Italian box office phenomenon and winner of six Italian Academy Awards.

1:00PM

Köln 75 | 116 min | Germany/Poland/Belgium
biography/drama/music | subtitles

Köln 75 follows 18 year old Vera Brandes as she defies her conservative parents to organize a Keith Jarrett concert in Cologne in 1975. Despite near failures, the impromptu performance became the iconic album The Köln Concert, which went on to become the bestselling solo jazz album – and the bestselling solo piano album of all time.

Buy passes & Frankenstein tickets at **thoseothermovies.com**.
Single tickets when available, $10 at the door.

THOSEOTHERMOVIES.COM

Junior highlanders

HHHS takes on co-op students

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is opening its doors to the next generation, offering up to four Hal High students co-op placements to see what life is like, and the difference people can make working in healthcare.

The students will spend two hours a day, five days a week rotating through various hospital departments on a set schedule. HHHS says the students will not repeat a department visit two days in a row, ensuring a "well-rounded and dynamic learning experience."

The first two arrivals – Grade 12 student Elizabeth Mathew and Grade 11 student Sophia Burke, pictured above – will have the chance to shadow workers in the emergency department, acute care, laboratory, physiotherapy, pharmacy, community programs such as Meals on Wheels, diagnostic imaging and at Hyland Wood Long-term Care.

"The goal of this initiative is to inspire and empower the next generation of healthcare professionals," said HHHS' interim president and CEO Jennifer Burns West. "By providing meaningful, hands-on experiences, we're helping students discover their potential and strengthening the future of local care right here in Haliburton County."

The hospital also plans to take two co-op students for the winter semester.

Before beginning their placements, students must complete orientation which includes training in privacy, occupational health and safety, infection prevention and control, communication, code of conduct, and wheelchair safety.

Given the unique, dynamic and potentially hazardous nature of modern healthcare, we look for students who are eager to learn are self-starters and who are willing to be part of a team," Ernst said. *(Mike Baker)*

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Highlander events

Food for the soul

Haliburton United Church opened its doors to the Highlands community Oct. 18, hosting a by-donation soup supper at its George Street parish hall in Haliburton village. About 40 people attended, with proceeds supporting church causes such as the Haliburton Pregnancy Care and Family Support Centre, Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited, and the 4Cs Food Bank. One of the organizers, Georgia Shank, said the church hosts two community dinners each year – soup in fall and a pancake supper in the spring. “We really wanted to bring the community together and give back. There have been a lot of people in our area struggling with food insecurity, so we’re here to provide a hearty meal and good conversation,” Shank said.

Left: Volunteers Adam Loney, Lyn Ritchie, Karen Frybort and Georgia Shank serving up some soup. Right: Haliburton United Church minister Harry Morgan takes a roll from eight-year-old Dallas Shank-Aggett, who was helping at the soup supper. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

THE DAUGHTERS’ GARDEN IS HOSTING AN EVENT!

Daughters’ Garden Inc.

MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS PLANTER

Have you always wanted to make your own planters but didn’t know where to start? This fun class will help you create your own work of art. The class includes 11” plastic container with soil, unique greens and a few surprise add ons. Special extras will be available for purchase to make your Christmas planter extra special. Refreshments will be served. This event will take place at the Irondale church.

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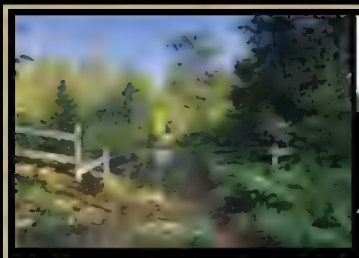

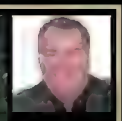

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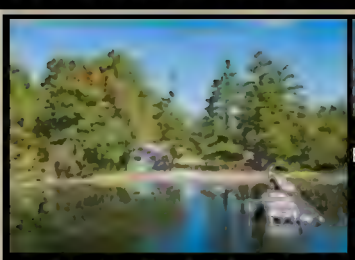

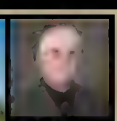

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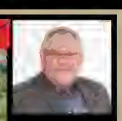

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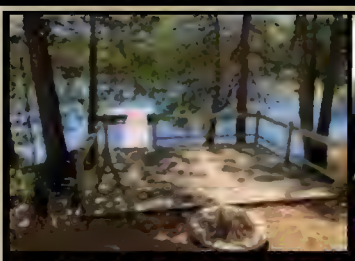

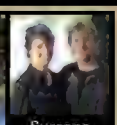

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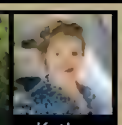

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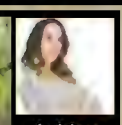

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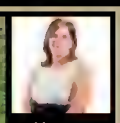

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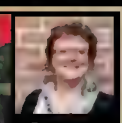

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Highlander events

A night at the opera

There wasn't an empty seat in the house at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion Oct. 18 as about 200 people attended the final performance of *Let's Make Opera*, a four-part show brought together by Highlands Opera Community School. The culmination of a year's worth of work, the grassroots production featured four locally-inspired stories: *Women at the End of the Line* by Janet Trull; *Desmond & Lois* by Meghan Mardus; *Crane Lake Cleanse* by Marcia Mandel; and *Two Shots at the Working Beaver* by Veronica Beynon.

Top left: Jordan Kovacs and Hannah Klose share a moment during *Desmond and Lois*, with Lauren McInnes and Catherine Wheeler in the background. Top right: Beth Kipping, as Winona, with Gwen Atkinson's Zofia during *Women at the End of the Line.* Middle left: Glenn Koehler fixes Thomas McLean's collar during *Desmond & Lois.* Middle right: Meghan Mardus, music teacher at Hal High, discusses the inspiration behind her story *Desmond and Lois*, where she served as librettist and composer. Bottom left: Klose's Helga shoots a worried look to the crowd during *Women at the End of the Line.* Bottom right: Marsha Sweet played the role of Maria in *Women at the End of the Line. Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Highlander events

Opera for community

MPP Laurie Scott and Klara Oyler, a volunteer with the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) were special guests at the premiere of *Let's Make Opera* Oct. 18, held at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The production, led by the Highlands Opera Community School – a part of Highlands Opera Studio, saw four locally-written stories brought to life on stage this past weekend. The year-long project was supported by a $97,400 OTF seed grant, with Oyler saying, "Highlands Opera Studio hit just the right note with this application. You presented us with such a unique and imaginative plan, we wanted to help you make it a reality." Last year, OTF provided more than 700 grants to non-profit groups and small communities, supporting hundreds of grassroots initiatives across Ontario.

Above: Highlands Opera Studio's (HOS) Richard Margison, OTF's Klara Oyler, MPP Laurie Scott, and HOS' Valerie Kuinka and Melissa Stephens at the unveiling of *Let's Make Opera* in Haliburton Oct. 18. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Silly Billy
The Chimera Project, ON
Sunday October 26, 2025
At The Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion
Show: 2pm
Workshop: 3:15pm
Silly Billy tells of a rare white buffalo on a quest to find a magical unicorn. Through adventures and overcoming obstacles, Billy discovers his own self worth and embraces his difference. Indigenous hoop dancing workshop to follow.
Ontario

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Huskies forward Julius Da Silva makes a play from behind the net during Saturday's 4-3 win over the Aurora Tigers. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Consistency an issue for young Huskies squad

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies head coach Jordan Bailey felt his young side played "one of our best games this year" after taming the visiting Aurora Tigers in Minden Oct. 18.

The blue and white rallied after two early goals put them in a hole, beating the Tigers 4-3 in a back-and-forth game at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The win was sandwiched between a pair of defeats – a 3-1 drubbing by the Pickering Panthers Oct. 17 and a double overtime 1-0 loss to the Toronto Patriots Oct. 21.

Bailey said he's been preaching to his team the importance of playing a consistent 60 minutes of hockey and believes he got that last weekend against Aurora.

"The message is that no matter what the score is, let's not waver from what we need to do. Our guys were able to do that. As far as a full 60 minutes go, that was one of our best games this year – and that's a better Aurora team," Bailey said. "I was really happy with the way we played and the way we stuck to the game plan."

It was another slow start for the Huskies on Saturday, who gave the Tigers a two-goal head start in the early going – Anrijs Bundzenieks made it 1-0 just 85 seconds in, with Simon Howard doubling the advantage at 5:42.

Some fans were already making their way to the concession stand late in the first when Ryan Gosse notched his sixth of the year at 19:12, assisted by Julius Da Silva and Ronen Macfarlane. Cristian Giancola made it a chaotic end to the period, tallying the equalizer at 19:48, assisted by Da Silva and Gosse.

Declan Bowmaster fired his fifth goal in four games on the powerplay 1:22 into the middle frame, with Chase Del Colombo and Oliver Tang registering assists on the play. Harrison O'Connor then added his second of the year 11:58 into the third, assisted by Alex Rossi. That stood up as the game-winner after Bundzenieks gave Aurora hope with his second goal at 15:51.

After the game, Bailey was asked what changes he made in the first to swing momentum back to the Huskies.

"I don't think we made any changes – it was just repeating what we had talked about before the game, which was the need to play a consistent 60 minutes, not worrying too much about outside noise or where we are in the standings. Just continue to build and create more consistent habits.

"Whenever you have a young team, it's very easy to revert back to old habits. So we're trying to make sure we do not do that anymore," Bailey said.

Disappointing defeats

Bailey described the Oct. 17 loss in Pickering as one of the Huskies' "worst games systematically."

The team found themselves behind after just 51 seconds and didn't make much of an impression on the road. A Carter Fogarty hat-trick, which featured rare even-strength, powerplay and shorthanded goals, downed the Huskies, who registered a consolation goal through Da Silva.

Carter Nadon made 32 saves in the loss, with the Huskies goaltender starting the past six games after his competition, Stephen Toltl, was traded to the Georgetown Raiders.

"It was the same message, which was that we need to start having more consistency and making sure we don't have those lulls in a game. There were periods in the game where we didn't play well at all," Bailey said.

It was a late night for fans in Minden Oct. 21 as the Huskies dropped a 1-0 game to the Toronto Patriots in double overtime. Tate Collins had the game's only goal, potting nine seconds into the second extra frame.

The topsy-turvy week left the Huskies in eighth place in the OJHL's East Conference, with 13 points and a record of 5-7-3. The team is back in action this weekend, travelling to Markham for a tilt with the Royals Oct. 24 before part one of the 'Battle of Hwy. 35' against the Lindsay Muskies in Minden Oct. 25. Puck drop is 4 p.m.

Home of the Highland Storm

Hunter Peelow rushes into the offensive zone. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

A wild tie in Highland Storm action

The Highland Storm U15 Cheryl Smith RE/MAX team hit the ice Oct. 17 against the Brock Wild.
The Storm opened the scoring in the first period when Lucas Vale found the back of the net, assisted by Chase Kerr. Less than two minutes later, Kelson Bagshaw added another for the Storm with an assist from Bentley Bull, giving the home team a solid 2-0 lead heading into the second period.
Brock battled back in the middle frame, capitalizing on a scoring chance to make it 2–1. The Wild kept the pressure on in the third and managed to even things up with a late goal. The Storm couldn't find the go-ahead marker before the final buzzer, resulting in a 2-2 tie.
The team now travels to Sturgeon Oct. 20 for a 7 p.m. tilt before heading to Niagara Falls for the Harvest Fall Classic Tournament this weekend. (*Submitted.*)

STARS of the WEEK

HUNTER PEELOW

Hunter played a solid two-way hockey game creating his own offensive scoring opportunities.

HUDSON MEYER

Hudson had a very sound defensive game. He had a strong backcheck and his effort is always second to none.

BLAKE HUTCHINSON

Blake held us in the game to keep it tight. He was very stable and made all the saves he was supposed to.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

SCORE BOARD

Oct. 14 U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs U15 The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House 1-4 (W for Peppermill)
U18 Rep Haliburton TimberMart vs Mariposa 4-1 W
Oct. 16 U13 LL Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Mariposa 10-2 W
U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Sturgeon 4-1 W
Oct. 17 U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Brock 2-2 T
Oct. 18 U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Mariposa 4-1 W
U13 LL Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Millbrook 2-1 W
U13 REP Curry Chevrolet vs Newcastle 10-1 W
U15 LL The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House vs Manvers 4-3 W
U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs Durham 6-2 L
U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 8-1 W
U18 LL A&W Haliburton vs Millbrook 7-2 L

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday. Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m. Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Oct. 27 is darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Oct. 29 Darts $4/player 2 p.m.; Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Cribbage league 6:30 p.m. – sign up at the Legion
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Oct. 23 and 30 Horseshoes $5/player 7 p.m. Oct. 23 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Oct. 24 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, at noon; Wings and Jam Session $15/pound from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31 is fish and chips, one piece $15, two piece $20 .
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Oct. 25, Halloween karaoke party, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

EVENTS

SIRCH Community Services is preparing for its annual Share the Warmth program, a County-wide initiative ensuring everyone has access to coats, boots, hats and other winter gear. Clean and gently-used gear can be dropped off between Oct. 9 and 30 in Haliburton at Foodland, Todd's Independent, Glecoff's, and Home Hardware, and in Minden at Dollo's Foodland, Home Hardware, St. Paul's Anglican Church and Valu-Mart. Giveaway events are at St. Paul's in Minden Nov. 8, SIRCH Bistro and Bakery in Haliburton Nov. 9 and the Thrift Warehouse in Bancroft Nov. 15.

Oct. 24, 7 to 8 p.m. Highland Hills United Church is hosting a 'Seeds of Song' songwriting workshop with Mimi O'Bonsawin, an acclaimed contemporary roots singer-songwriter of French-Canadian and Abenaki heritage. The hour-long event will guide participants in planting seeds of their own songs. Cost is $10 to attend, pen and paper required.

Oct. 25, 9 to 11 a.m. The North Entrance Masonic Lodge and Haliburton United Church are hosting a community breakfast in the fellowship room at the church, located at 10 George St. This is intended to bring together members of the community for good food and fellowship. Donations are welcome, with proceeds supporting public school breakfast programs in the County. Hosted on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to noon Haliburton Highlands Land Trust is hosting its latest 'Discovery Days' event, with Sheila Ziman and Mary Anne Barkhouse teaching people about nature's engineers – the beaver. Happening in-person at 1225 25th Line Road in Algonquin Highlands. Admission by donation. Register at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

Oct. 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Psychic and mystic market at Castle Antiques in Haliburton. Featuring palmistry, psychics, tarot readers, mediums, local authors and artisans. Free admission, with entry into a prize draw.

Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m to 3 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is inviting the public to its third annual Haunting in Minden Hills. Featuring a wide-range of activities including witch dance workshop, face painting, pumpkin carving, Halloween games, scavenger hunt, costume parade and more. Free to attend.

Oct. 25, 1 to 5 p.m. Walkabout Farm Therapeutic Riding Association is hosting its second annual 'warped woods Halloween show' at its property at 1105 Spring Valley Road in Minden. This inclusive walk through the woods will entertain Halloween enthusiasts of all ages and abilities. Cost is $10 per person, with the money going towards care of the farm's horses through the winter.

Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Razzamataz Kids' Shows returns for its 2025/26 season with *Silly Billy*, presented by Theatre of Wonder. The show tells the tale of a rare white buffalo on a quest to find a magical unicorn. Indigenous hoop dancing workshop to follow at 3:15 p.m. Tickets to the show are $10 for adults and $7 for children, with the workshop costing an extra $8. Book online at www.razzamataz.ca.

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What's on

Spooktacular

Winterdance Dogsled Tours is inviting the public to step into a haunted forest "where shadows whisper and mist swirls around your feet," Friday and Saturday nights, 7-10 p.m. until Halloween. Tanya McCready (pictured) said it takes about 30 minutes to walk the 700 metre trail. Price is $20 per person, and it is ages 12-plus with no pets allowed. Advance purchase is highly recommended. The Winterdance trails are at 1888 Hodgson Rd., Haliburton. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Haliburton County Community Services and ID Clinic

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

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- HUMAN RIGHTS

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- FUEL SERVICE PROGRAM INFORMATION

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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WANTED ANTIQUES
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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome!

Sydney and Ryan Kinzie are ecstatic to let everyone know that their beautiful daughter **Eleanor Carolyn Kinzie** was born on Wednesday October 15 at 6:41 am and weighed 7 lb 5 oz in Oshawa.

Eleanor Carolyn is the first grandchild to Tara and Scott Robins and Gord (wife deceased Carolyn) Kinzie. She is also a great grand daughter to Ann Winkel.

Eleanor will be loved by many wonderful aunts and uncles, cousins and friends.

It was a long journey BUT oh so well worth it!

HELP WANTED

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is currently seeking to fulfill the following Public Works Department position:

Operator (Stanhope Yard)

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified applicants may submit their resume by **3:00 pm on Tuesday, October 28, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Haliburton Village Beautiful Home

3 bedrooms on 2nd floor; 2.5 Bathrooms, One 4 pc ensuite, One 4 pc main bath-room on 2nd floor and 2 pc bathroom on main floor; Refrigerator, stove, dishwash-er, Washer/Dryer, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Living Room, Main Floor Laundry, and direct Entrance to double car garage

$2,800/mth **Includes** Heat, Hydro and Internet.

Detailed background checks and credit checks on each and every possible candidate.

Serious Applicants to Contact 705-457-0473

Highlander classifieds

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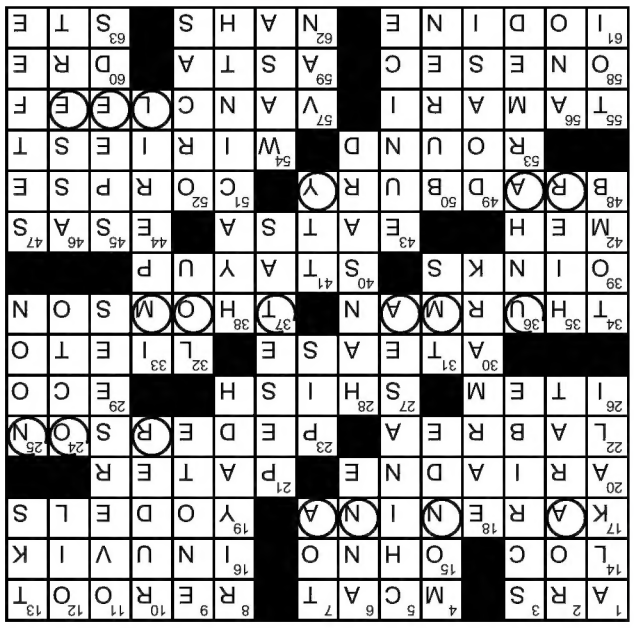

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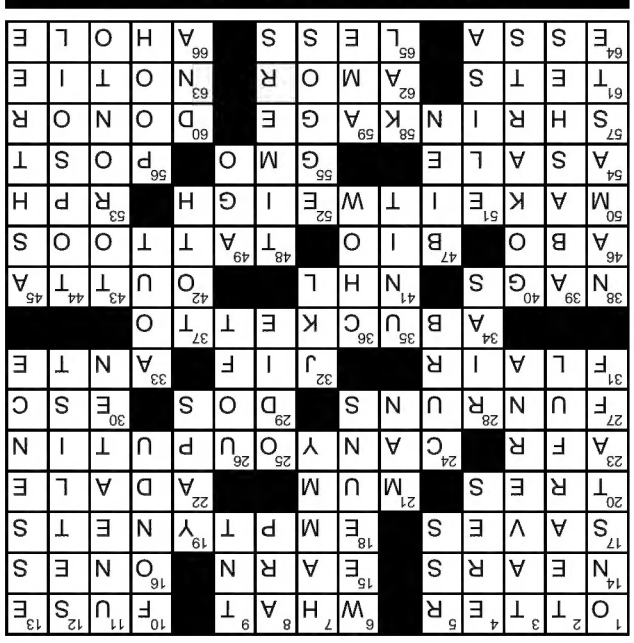
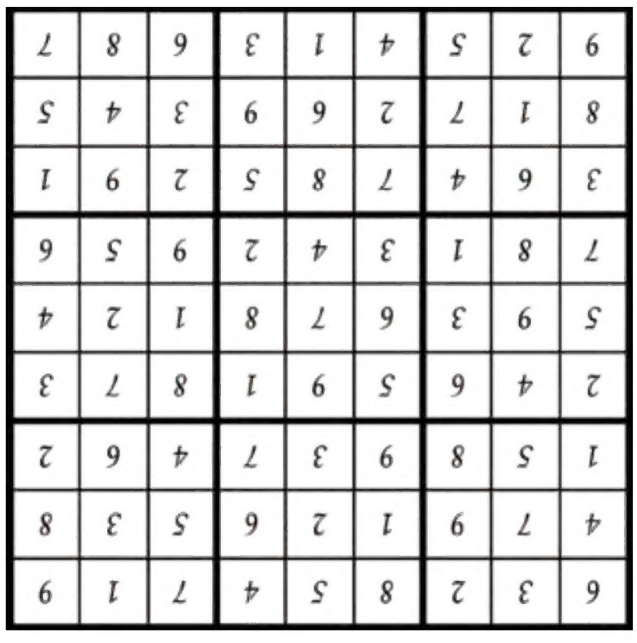
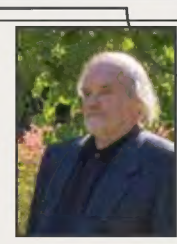




IN MEMORIUM



Fred J. Berning

In loving memory of a wonderful father and husband who passed away October 27, 2022.

We can't believe it's been three years without you. You were a remarkable woodworker whose talents have touched many lives. Your creations that fill our home give us joy and peace to go on each day.

"Your presence we miss
Your memory we treasure
Loving you always
Forgetting you never."
Brenda, Tina, and Will

Mary Whitney

In loving memory of my mother who passed away October 19, 1995.

Even though you're far away
I think about you every day.
You were more than just a mother
You were my best friend.

Sadly missed, Brenda Lee.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Glenn Richard James Hodgkinson

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, October 18, 2025 with his family by his side at the age of 72.

Beloved husband of Nancy (nee Anderson) for 50 years. Dear father of Geoffrey and his wife Alison, Kevin and his wife Kim. Loving Poppy to Aiden and Kellan and to his grandpuppy Maggie. Dear brother of Judy and her husband Ken Gordon and their children Cindy Henderson and Laurie Ellis. Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, family and friends.

The family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all the staff at Hyland Crest.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Friday, October 31, 2025 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Parkinson Society Canada or to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

READ THE HIGHLANDER. ANYWHERE.

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If you are looking for a rewarding career in the HVAC industry, we want to talk to you!

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Check us out at www.walkershvac.com

Email your resume today to info@walkershvac.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

The Highlander is hiring casual photographers to join our team

Candidates must have their own car and camera equipment. Weekend work is required. The ideal candidate should be skilled at taking portraits and comfortable engaging with people to gather their names and a few words.

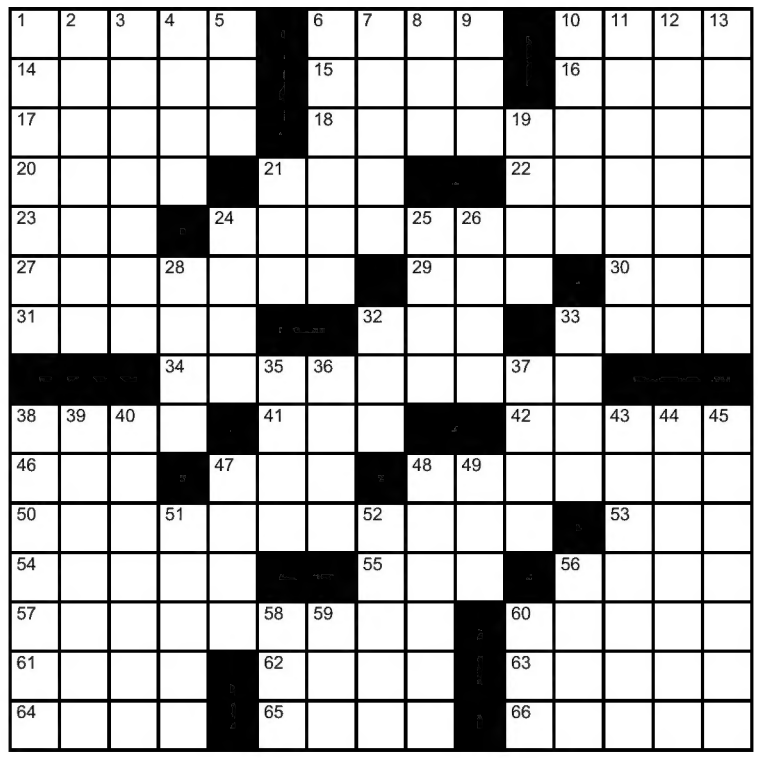
Contact us at :
mike@thehighlander.ca
to apply today!

TheHighlander

Highlander puzzles

Puzzle in a Puzzle

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

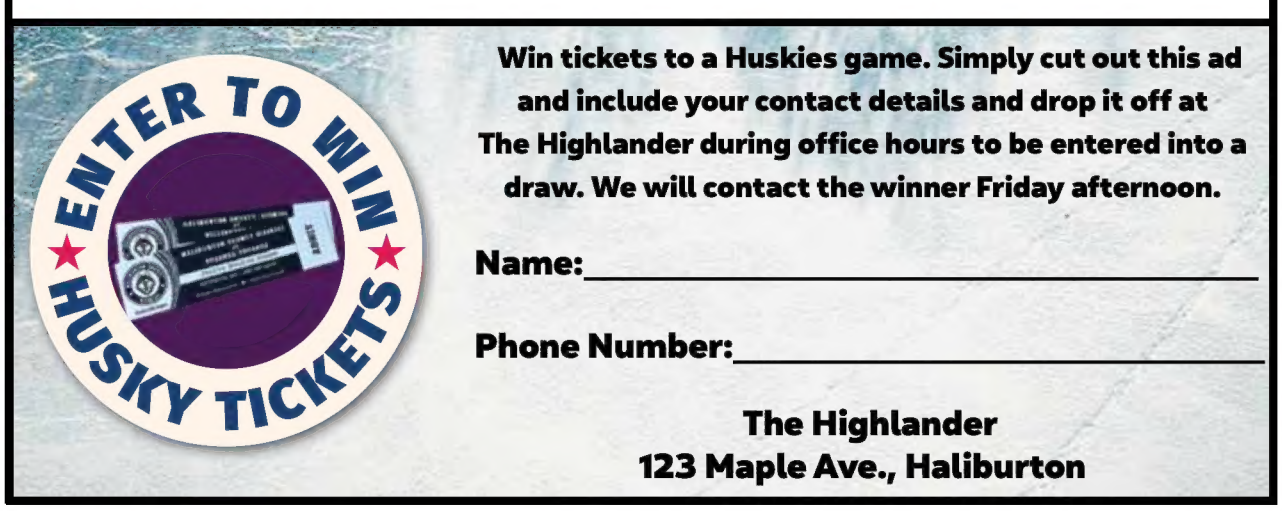


Across

1 Critter that float on its back
6 First part of a riddle
10 Electrical box part
14 Approaches
15 Pull in at work
16 There are two in 11
17 Clicks the diskette icon
18 Results of "pulling" the goalie, in hockey
20 Versailles "very"
21 Many a May flower buy, for short
22 Robin Hood pal, Allan-___
23 Home to 54 countries: Abbr.
24 The riddle, part 2
27 Charity races, often
29 Magazine pics at the salon
30 Key used when "undo" won't work
31 "Plane and Simple" Canadian airline
32 Spread brand implying speediness
33 Chips in?
34 The riddle, part 3
38 Foals' grandmas, maybe
41 Jets and Flyers org.
42 "Get ___ town!" (words of disbelief)
46 ___ system (blood-typing method)
47 Website "About me" blurb
48 Art that gets under your skin
50 The riddle, part 4
53 Prescription filler: Abbr.
54 Make ___ (market successfully)
55 Designer veggie letters
56 National ___ (newspaper)
57 Wool washing worry
60 Blood bank contributor
61 Vietnamese festivals
62 Cupid's other name
63 Like laceless shoes
64 She, in Sicily
65 End of the riddle
66 Answer to the riddle

Down

1 Hired full-time
2 Weepy
3 Greek bistro
4 "___ Tu" (song title meaning "it's you")
5 Blog feed letters
6 Little tykes
7 Tending to overact
8 Dadaist painter Jean
9 Wile E. Coyote's stuff
10 Skewered bread dipped in cheese
11 Like broccoli on a kid's plate, maybe
12 Bar band's lineup
13 Vital ingredient
19 Peke's greetings
21 Premier Wab Kinew's province: Abbr.
24 Garbage pickup spot
25 Arbuckle's dog
26 Post-sec. school in 43-Down
28 Narrow inlets
32 Keypad trio under 5
33 Juillet follower
35 ___ of measure (litre or metre)
36 Olivia ___, mayor of 43-Down
37 Superhero "Space Ghost" cartoonist Alex ___
38 Ashram greeting
39 Brings shame upon
40 Kids' racing vehicles
43 Yonge St.'s city
44 Upper layer of rich earth
45 Wood source for baseball bats
47 "Ça va __," ("All's well", in Québec)
48 Finish line officials
49 "It's ___!" ("We got the O.K.!")
51 "Clueless" actress Donovan
52 Waffles in a yellow box
56 Milne bear
58 ___-Kan (Alpo alternative)
59 Soul: Fr.
60 Crime-solving aid since 1986



Win tickets to a Huskies game. Simply cut out this ad and include your contact details and drop it off at The Highlander during office hours to be entered into a draw. We will contact the winner Friday afternoon.

Name:_____

Phone Number:_____

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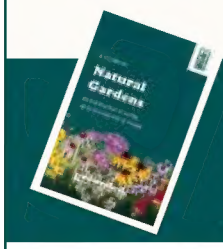

For a free guide to
natural gardens in
Haliburton County,
visit groundedgardens.ca.

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MLS X12411405

Kushog Lake 2 4
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$795,000
MLS X12169805

Kennisis Lake 2 3
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MLS X12176356

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MLS X12250094

Kennisis Lake 2 3
$725,000
MLS X12347900

Trooper Lake 2 3
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MLS X12236448

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MLS X12416325

Salerno Lake 1 3
$659,000
MLS X12253284

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